

# **PREVALENCE OF ESBL PRODUCING GRAM NEGATIVE BACILLI IN POST OPERATIVE WOUND INFECTIONS**



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## **CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that this dissertation work entitled **“PREVALENCE OF ESBL PRODUCING GRAM NEGATIVE BACILLI IN POST OPERATIVE WOUND INFECTIONS”** is a bonafide record of work done by **Dr. J. VASUDEVAN** in the department of Microbiology, Coimbatore Medical College and Hospital, Coimbatore - 641 004 under the effective guidance of **Dr. R.K. GEETHA M.D., D.C.P.**, Professor and HOD of Microbiology during the period of study (2003-2006).

**DEAN**

**GUIDE**

## **DECLARATION**

I solemnly declare that the dissertation titled “**PREVALENCE OF ESBL PRODUCING GRAM NEGATIVE BACILLI IN POST OPERATIVE WOUND INFECTIONS**” was done by me at Coimbatore Medical College Hospital during the period from October 2004 – September 2005 under the guidance and supervision of Professor **Dr. R.K. GEETHA M.D., D.C.P.**, Professor and HOD of Microbiology, Coimbatore Medical College, Coimbatore.

This dissertation is submitted to the Tamilnadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University towards the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of M.D. Degree (Branch – IV) in Micro Biology.

Place:

Date:

**Dr. J. VASUDEVAN**

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acknowledgement

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# INTRODUCTION

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**PREVALANCE OF ESBL PRODUCING GRAM**  
**NEGATIVE BACILLI IN POST OPERATIVE WOUND**  
**INFECTION**

**INTRODUCTION**

Resistant bacteria are emerging world wide as a threat to the favorable out come of common infections in community and hospital settings. Even before the development of penicillin the first beta lactam anti biotic there was an emergence of resistance to betalactam antibiotics (Ref.30). The most important single mechanism of resistance to these antibiotics is due to the production of beta lactamases by gram positive and gram-negative organisms. The enzymes are thought to have evolved from penicillin binding proteins with which they show some sequence homology. This development was likely due to the selective pressure by beta lactam producing soil organisms found in the environment. Because of their increased spectrum of activity against the oxyimino-cephalosporins, these enzymes are called extended spectrum beta lactamases which are capable of hydrolyzing and inactivating a wide variety of beta lactam antibiotics like third generation cephalosporin's and penicillin's. ESBL producing gram negative bacteria are of

increasing importance on a worldwide basis and these pathogens are beginning to pose a serious threat. There is some evidence to suggest that over use of  $\beta$  lactams has imposed a selective pressure on pathogens to acquire resistance genes and mutate these to confers a broader range of activities (Ref. 34). ESBLs have been reported from all parts of the world. However there is wide variation of the prevalence even in closely related regions. ESBLs have been found in a wide range of gram-negative bacteria and the majority of the strains belong to the family Enterobacteriaceae. Enterobacteriaceae producing ESBLs enzymes are a clinical threat and have been associated with increased mortality in severe infection.

This study was undertaken to determine the prevalence of ESBL producing gram negative bacilli in post operative wound infections and also importance of detection of these enzymes and their epidemiology.

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## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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## **AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Collection of specimens from post operative wound infections.
2. Inoculation of specimens onto suitable culture media for isolation of organisms.
3. Selection of gram negative bacilli that are resistant to third generation cephalosporins.
4. Detection of ESBL from these strains using screening (Double Disk Synergy Test - DDST) and confirmatory test (Phenotypic Confirmatory Disk Diffusion Test)
5. Analysis and comparison of different methods for ESBL detection.
6. To study the prevalence of ESBL producing Gram negative bacilli in post operative wound infections.

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## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Penicilins and cephalosporins are called  $\beta$  lactam antibiotics as they possess  $\beta$  lactam ring in their structure. Bacteria acquired resistance to these antibiotics by production of enzymes called  **$\beta$  lactamases** which hydrolyse the  $\beta$  lactam ring. Extended spectrum  $\beta$  lactams are those antibiotics which are not affected by common  $\beta$  lactamases. Enzymes which confer resistance to these oxy imino  $\beta$  lactams and monobactams are called Extended spectrum  $\beta$  lactamases (ESBL). These are derivatives of common  $\beta$  lactamases that have undergone one or more amino acid substitution(s) near the active site of the enzyme thus increasing their affinity and the hydrolytic activity against third generation cephalosporins and monobactams.

The ESBL enzymes are plasmid mediated enzymes capable of hydrolyzing and inactivating a wide variety of  $\beta$  lactams – third generation cephalosporins, penicillins and aztreonam. These enzymes are the result of mutations of TEM 1 and TEM 2 and SHV1. All of these  $\beta$  lactamase enzymes are commonly found in the family Enterobacteriaceae. TEM 1, TEM 2 and SHV1 enzymes confer high level resistance to first generation cephalosporins. Widespread use of third

generation cephalosporins and aztreonam may be the major cause of mutations in these enzymes that has led to the emergence of ESBLs. The first ESBL isolates were discovered in Western Europe in mid 1980's and subsequently in the US in the late 1980's. The resistant organisms are now a worldwide problem. The majority of ESBL producing strains are *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca*, and *Escherichia coli*. Other enzymes in which the frequency of ESBL production is low were; *Enterobacter.spp*, *salmonella.spp*, *morganella.morgani*, *protus mirabilis*, *Serratia.marcescens* and *Pseudomonas.aeruginosa*.

### **Structure of $\beta$ lactamase and mechanism of action**

All ESBLs have serine at their active sites except for a small but rapidly growing group of metallo  $\beta$  lactamases belonging to class B. They share several highly conserved amino acid sequences with Penicillin Binding Proteins (PBPs).  $\beta$  lactamases attack the amide bond in the  $\beta$  lactam ring of penicillin and cephalosporins with subsequent production of penicillinoic acid and cephalosporic acid, ultimately rendering compounds antibacterially inactive.

## **Classification Schemes**

Various classification schemes have been proposed by many researchers. Classification of Sawai et al in 1986 was based on response to anti sera. Ambler's molecular class A – majority of ESBLs contain a serine at the active site and belong to this class characterized by a molecular mass of approximately 29,000 Da. Richmond and Sykes scheme in 1973 was on the basis of substrate profile. Extension of the Richmond and Sykes scheme by Sykes and Mathew in 1976 was based on differentiation by Isoelectric Focusing. In the scheme proposed by Mitsuhashi and Inoue in 1981 the category "cefuroxime hydrolyzing  $\beta$  lactamases" was added to "penicillinase and cephalosporinase" classification. Recently any classification scheme has been developed to integrate functional and molecular characteristics. The Bush-Jacoby, Medeiros Scheme puts 178  $\beta$  lactamases from naturally occurring bacterial isolates into four groups based on substrate and inhibited profiles.

## **$\beta$ lactam Antibiotics**

Of all the antibiotics,  $\beta$  lactam antibiotics are among the most useful and frequently prescribed. They are so called due to the presence of a core  $\beta$  lactam ring in their structure. Penicillins and cephalosporins



will come under this group. Mechanism of action : Inhibition of synthesis of bacterial peptidoglycan cell wall. Cephalosporins : First generation – having G +ve and modest G -ve activity. Second Generation : Having some what better activity against G –ve bacteria and some with anti anaerobe activity. Third Generation : Less activity against G +ve organisms but much more activity against the Enterobacteriaceae. Fourth Generation : Spectrum similar to the third but having increased stability to hydrolysis by  $\beta$  lactamases. Combination of  $\beta$  lactam antibiotics with  $\beta$  lactamase inhibitors – sulbactam/ cefoperezone combination is an effective and safe alternative to Aminoglycsoide / clindamycin combination for intra abdominal infections. SHINAGAWA et al – studied the efficacy and safety of sulbactam/ cefoperezone in the treatment of biliary tract infections. It had an efficacy of 79.9% with the efficacy in patients with cholecystitis, cholangitis and liver abscess at 89%, 77.3% and 21.4%.

IAKOLEV et al – studied the efficacy of sulbactam / cefoperezone in wound infections. The clinical efficacy was 92% and the bacteriological efficacy was 76%

Structural class (Ambler)	Functional group (Bush)	Activity <sup>b</sup>							Inhibition by clavulanate
		Penicillin	Carbenicillin	Oxacillin	Cephaloridine	Cefotaxime	Aztreonam	Imipenem	
<b>Serine <math>\beta</math>-lactamases</b>	2a	+++	+	-	±	-	-	-	++
	A	2b	+++	+	+	++	-	-	++
		2be	+++	+	+	++	++	++	++
		2br	+++	+	+	+	-	-	-
		2c	++	+++	+	+	-	-	+
		2e	++	++	-	++	++	++	++
		2f	++	+	?	+	+	++	++
	C	1	++	±	Inhibitor	+++	+	Inhibitor	-
	D	2d	++	+	+++	+	-	-	±
	Undetermined <sup>c</sup>	4 <sup>c</sup>	++	++	++	V	V	-	-
<b>Zinc <math>\beta</math>-lactamases</b>									
	B	3	++	++	++	++	++	-	++

<sup>a</sup>Data from Ambler's classification and the classification of Bush et al. (Ambler, 1980; Bush et al., 1995). This table includes some simplifications. In particular,

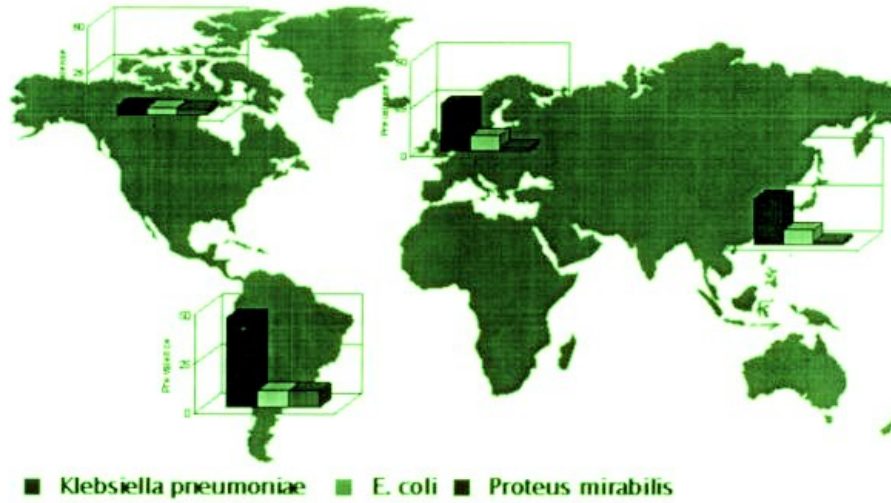
Group 2d includes

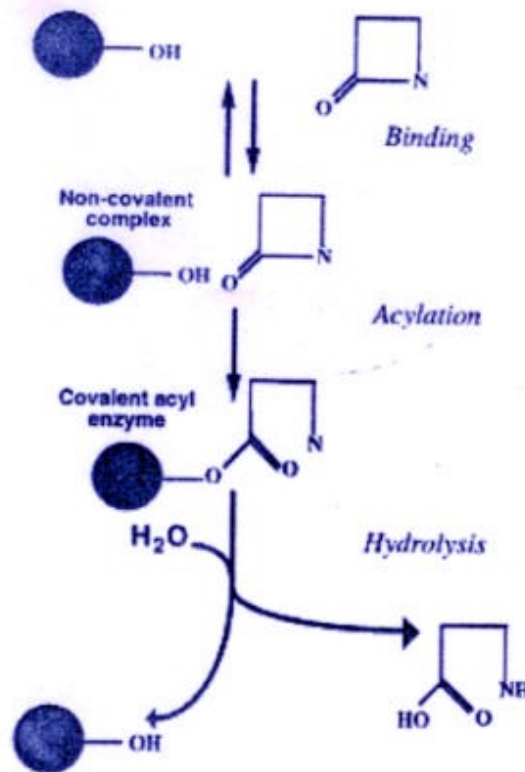
(i) Molecular class A oxacillinases from *Actinomadura* and *Streptomyces* spp., as well as class D enzymes from gram-negative rods; (ii) hydrolytic activity varies within each group, and (iii) sequences remain to be determined for many enzymes included in Bush's scheme.

<sup>b</sup> +++, preferred substrate (highest V<sub>max</sub>); ++, good substrate; +, hydrolyzed; ±, barely hydrolyzed; -, stable; V, variable within group; ?, uncertain.

<sup>c</sup> None of Bush's group 4 enzymes has yet been sequenced; they are assumed to "be serine types because they lack carbapenemase activity.

- probably underestimated. Significant proportion of laboratories do not perform tests specifically designed to detect ESBLs
- increasing
- considerable geographical variation.





**Fig. 1.** Action of a serine  $\beta$ -lactamase.

The enzyme first associates noncovalently with the antibiotic to yield the noncovalent Michaelis complex. The  $\beta$ -lactam ring is then attacked by the free hydroxyl on the side chain of a serine residue at the active site of the enzyme, yielding a covalent acyl ester. Hydrolysis of the ester finally liberates active enzyme and the hydrolyzed, inactive drug. This mechanism is followed by  $\beta$ -lactamases of molecular classes A, C, and D, but class B enzymes utilize a zinc ion to attack the  $\beta$ -lactam ring. (Livermore, 1995)

## Types Of ESBLs

Most are derivatives of TEM or SHV enzymes . there are now > 90 TEM type N beta lactamases and > 25 SHV type Beta lactamases. They are most often found in E.coli and K.pneumoniae also found in proteus spp. Providencia spp. With both of these groups of enzymes a few point mutations at selected loci within the gene give rise to the extended spectrum phenotype. **TEM-1** : First plasmid mediated B lactamases in gram negatives described in the 1960's found in a single strain of E.coli isolated from a blood culture from a patient Temoniera in Greece which is able to hydrolyze penicillin and early cephalosporins such as cephalothin and cephaloridine. **TEM-2**: First derivative of TEM-1 had a single amino acid substitution from the original Blactmases, caused a shift in the isoelectric point from a PI of 5.4 to 5.6 but did not change the substrate profile. **TEM-3**: Reported in 1989 first TEM type B lactamase that displayed the ESBL phenotype. SHV type Blactmase – another common plasmid mediated b lactamase found in K.penumnoiae, E.coli is SHV-(sulphydryl) variable. **Inhibitor Resistant TEM B.Lactamases (IRT) – B.Lactamases** : In early 1990's B.Lactmases that were resistant to inhibition by clavulanic acid were discovered which were variants of TEM-1 or TEM-2 revealed by nucleotide sequencing. Inhibitor Resistant TEM B.Lactamases (IRT) found mainly in clinical isolates of E.coli but also in some strains of K.pneumoniae, K oxytoca,

*P.mirabilis*, *citrobacter.freundii*. Although Inhibitor Resistant TEM B.Lactamases (IRT) variants are resistant to inhibition by clavulanic acid and sulbactam, there by showing resistance to the B.Lactamase –inhibitor combination , they remain susceptible to inhibition by tazobactam and subsequently the combination of piperacillin-tazobactam combination.

CTXM : In recent years a new family of plasmid mediated ESBLs called CTXM that preferentially hydrolyze cefotaxime mainly found in strains of *Salmonella enterica* serovar.Typhimurium & *E.coli*. they included : CTXM1 (Germany, Italy)M2 (Argentina) M3(Poland), M4(Russia),M6,M7 Greece), M5(Latvia), M8 (Brazil),M9,10(Spain).Tohoenzymes 1,2 prevalence in Japan. OXA: type enzymes are another growing family of ESBLs belong to molecular class D and functional 2d, confer resistance to ampicillin and cephalothin, has high hydrolytic activity against oxacillin and cloxacillin, poorly inhibited by clavulanic acid. OXA type ESBLs are found mainly in *P.aeruginosa*. OXA 11 14 15 16 17 (Turkey) OXA 13 (France) 18 19 28(France).

### **Pathogenesis of wound infection**

Wound infection has probably always been a major complication of surgery and Trauma. Bacterial Contamination is inevitable but controlled by strict adherence to principles of asepsis.

Surgical incision itself – an initial act – which by breaching the skin disrupts the primary barrier to infection. Then microorganisms may gain access to the blood stream and deep tissues through the incision. Dead space may result with increased risk of infection. Areas of tissue ischaemia, necrosis and inadequate blood flow are created – predisposing to the formation of exudates and haematomas.

## Types Of Post Surgical Wounds

### South ampton wound grading system

GRADE	
0	Normal Healing
I	Normal Healing with mild bruising or erythema
Ia	Some bruising
Ib	Considerable bruising
Ic	Mild erythema
II	Erythema + other signs of inflammation
IIa	At one point
IIb	Around sutures
IIc	Along wound
IId	Around wound
III	Clear or haemoserous discharge
IIIa	At one point only $\leq 2$ cms
IIIb	Along wound $> 2$ cms
IIIc	Large volume
IIId	Prolonged $> 3$ days
Major complications IV	pus
IV a	At one point only $\leq 2$ cms

IVb	Along wound > 2 cms
V	Deep severe wound infections with or without tissue breakdown - Hematoma requiring aspiration

### **Trends of Surgical wound infection**

In a study (Ref. 19) that investigated surgical wound infection rates in 47 hospitals from 1986 – 1990 –Surgical wound infection rates were :

After colon surgery = 6.8 % highest. Coronary artery bypass graft = 4.6%. Gastric surgery = 4.5%. In a comparative study of medical intensive care unit (ICU) patients and surgical ICU patients ---- Nosocomial infection rates were higher in the SICU patients (31% vs 24%). Incidence of post operative wound infection has fallen over the years -----From over 40% - for dirty wounds 1970's to less than 30% by the end of the 1980's.From 20 to 11-12% for contaminated wounds and from 9 to 7-8% for clean contaminated wounds.

### **Common Surgical Pathogens**

In one study : 33% of all surgical infections caused by staph aureus. most common wound pathogens after intrabdominal surgery were : Enterococci, Entrobacter, Spp, E.coli.

48.4% of incisional wound isolates = Gram positive organisms



<b>Type of operation</b>	<b>Anticipated Pathogen</b>
Open heart Surgery, Vascular surgery	S.aureus, Coagulase positive staphylococcus GNB
Lower Extremity amputations	S.aureus, Coagulase positive staphylococcus GNB
Gastroduodenal	Streptococci, Bacteroides, Spp.coliforms
Biliary Tract high risk	Coliforms, enterococcus
Vaginal/Abdominal hysterectomy/Cesarean Section	Group B, Streptococci, Enterococcus, anaerobes Enterobacteriaceae
Colorectal, Appendicectomy	Enterobacteriaceae, Anaerobes
Craniotomy / Laminectomy	S. aureus coagulase positive staphylococcus.

### SSI – SURGICAL SITE INFECTION RATES BY WOUND CLASSIFICATION AND NNIS SYSTEM RISK INDEX

<b>Incision classification</b>	<b>Risk index category(% infection)</b>			
	0	1	2	3
Clean	1.0	2.3	5.4	-
Clean contaminated	2.1	4.0	9.5	-
Contaminated	-	3.4	6.8	13.2
Dirty infected	-	3.1	8.1	12.8
Over all	1.5	2.9	6.8	13.0

(Ref : John .L.Cameron current surgical therapy 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

NNIS – National Nosocomial infection surveillance. Post operative wound infections constitutes to major source of morbidity and mortality for surgical patients. Surgical wound infections divided into:

1. Incision involving tissues above fascia – 60%
2. Deep (invaliding tissue at or below fascia)
3. Nosocomial surgical wound infections – 40%

### **Variables increasing risk of post Operatives infection**

Patients variables - Age over 60yrs Malnutitirtions, obesity, Diabetes mellitus, Radiation therapy, steroid therapy, malignancy, Immuno Suppressive therapy.

Preoperative variables - Duration of preoperative hospitalization, Duration of Surgery, present of hematoma, use of drains, repeat operation (during same operation), insertion of foreign body or implant.

### **ESBL Detection Techniques**

**ESBL Detection Techniques :** (Ref. 30)

### **Clinical Micro biology Techniques**

1. Standard NCCLS interpretive criteria.
2. NCCLS ESBL Confirmatory Test
3. Double Disk approximation Test

4. Three Dimensional Test
5. E-Test, ESBL Strips
6. Vitek ESBL Test

### **Molecular Detection Techniques**

1. DNA Probes
2. PCR
3. Oligotyping
4. PCR-RFLP
5. PCR-SSCP
6. LCR
7. Nucleotide Sequencing

Several ESBL detection test are based on the KIRBY-BAUER DISK DIFFUSION Methodology

Routine antibiotic susceptibility testing methods are not capable of detecting ESBL resistance without modification. There are chances of ESBL producers likely to be reported falsely as susceptible to the cephalosporins, unless specific ESBL screening and confirmation tests are carried out.

## **ESBL Detection is a Two-Step Process**

A screening step with an indicator cephalosporin to indicate possible ESBL production followed by a phenotypic confirmatory test. (Ref.34).

To establish the prevalence of ESBL strains in clinical isolates we have to examine the available phenotypic ESBL detection methods and to develop an optimal protocol for routine ESBL testing. Two different protocols were used : (Ref. 34)

**Protocol-1** : Three test panels were used for ESBL detection using the NCCLS method. (K.pneumoniae ATCC 700603 was used as positive control for ESBL).

1. ESBL –E-TEST PANEL : Cefepime, ceftazidime, cefotaxime, each  $\pm$  clavulanate.
2. CONVENTIONAL PANEL OF ESBL COMBINATION DISCS –  
Cefpodoxime, ceftazidime, cefotaxime each  $\pm$  clavulanate.
3. EXTENDED PANEL OF ESBL COMBINATION DISCS :-  
Cefpirome (oxoid) and cefepime (MAST), each  $\pm$  clavulanate.  
Cefoxitin (oxoid) disk was used for detecting AMPC production.

**Protocol : 2 :** Single plate disc approximation method. Four substrates cefpodoxime, ceftazidime, cefotaxime, cefepime disks were placed using a template approximately 2.5 cm from a co-amoxiclav disk in the center on a single Muller Hinton Agar Plate inoculated with a 0.5 McFarland suspension of isolate to be tested. Use of more than one substrate for screening is recommended by NCCLS. The use of Cefepime permits ESBL detection in isolates simultaneously Producing Ampc.

#### **Double Disk Approximation Test (Ref. 30)**

1. Described by Jarlier et al In this test the organism is swabbed onto a Mueller-Hinton Agar Plate. A susceptibility Disk Containing amoxicillin Clavulanate is placed in the center of the plate and Disk Containing one of the Oxyimino -  $\beta$  lactam antibiotics are placed 30 mm (center to center) from the amoxicillin - Clavulanate Disk, Enhancement of the Zone of Inhibition of the Oxyimino-  $\beta$  lactam caused by the Synergy of the Clavulanate in the amoxicillin-Clavulanate disk is a positive test. The Sensitivity of the test was increased by the reducing the distance between the disks to 20 mm in this study.( Ref : Bradford volume 14 no.4,2001)
2. Jacoboy and Han test : in which 20 micro grams of sulbactam was added to susceptibility disks containing one of the oxyimino B lactam antibiotics an increase of 5 mm in the zone of inhibition in a

disk containing sulbactam- compared to the drug alone was considered a positive test.

3. Three Dimensional test by Thomson and Sanders : Following inoculation of the test organism onto the surface of a Mueller Hinton agar plate, slit is cut into the agar into which a broth suspension of the test organism is introduced. Subsequently antibiotic disks are placed on the surface of the plate 3mm from the slit. Distortion or discontinuity in the expected circular zone of inhibition is considered a positive test.
4. Phenotypic Confirmatory Double Disk Diffusion test : The NCCLS recommended the use of ceftazidime in combination with clavulanic acid. Perform the antibiogram using Muller-Hinton agar and McFarland 0.5 inoculum. Test both ceftazidime + clavulanic acid and ceftazidime alone. An increase in zone diameter for the combination of ceftazidime + clavulanic acid compared to ceftazidime alone of more than >5 mm is confirmatory of the presence of ESBL.

**NCCLS Screening and Confirmatory tests for ESBLs :**  
(K.pneumoniae, K oxytoca, E.coli) (Ref .34)

### **Step 1 : ESBL- Screening (BP=Break point)**

<b>Disc</b>	<b>R. (BP.mm)</b>	<b>S.(BP.mm)</b>	<b>ESBL Screening BP(mm)</b>
Cefpodoxime 10 mg	17	27	17
Ceftazidime 30mg	14	18	22
Aztreonam 30mg	15	22	27
Cefotaxime 30mg	14	232	27
Ceftriaxone 30mg	13	21	25

Zone diameter less than or equal to ESBL Screening BP for any one of the above antibiotics MAY indicate ESBL production. Go to Step 2.

### **Step 2 : ESBL Confirmatory Test**

<b>Discs</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Ceftazidime 30 mg	A 5 mm increase in zone diameter  For EITHER antibiotic tested in combination with Clavulanic acid . Versus it zone when tested alone confirms ESBL production.
Ceftazidime + Clavulanic acid 30/10 mg	
AND	
Cefotaxime 30 mg	
Cefotaxime + Clavulanic acid 30/10 mg	

**Table 2 A.** (Continued) Screening and Confinnatory Tests for ESBLs in *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *K. oxytoca*, and *Escherichia coli*.

Method	Initial Screen Test	Phenotypic Confinnatory Test
Medium	Mueller-Hinton Agar	Mueller-Hinton Agar
Antimicrobial Disk Concentration	Cefpodoxime 10 micro g or ceftazidime 30 micro g or aztreonam 30 micro g or cefotaxime 30 micro g or ceftriaxone 30 micro g or (The use of more than one antimicrobial agent for screening improves the sensitivity of detection).	ceftazidime 30 micro g ceftazidime/clavulanic acid <sup>a</sup> 30/10 micro g and cefotaxime 30 micro g cefotaxime /clavulanic acid <sup>a</sup> 30/10 micro g (Confinnatory testing requires use of both cefotaxime and ceftazidime, along and in combination with clavulanic acid.
Inoculum	Standard disk diffusion recommendations	Standard disk diffusion recommendations
Results	Cefpodoxime zone $\leq 22$ mm Ceftazidime zone $\leq 22$ mm Aztreonam zone $\leq 27$ mm Cefotaxime zone $\leq 27$ mm Ceftriaxone zone $\leq 25$ mm = suspicious for ESBL production	A $\geq 5$ mm increase in a zone diameter for either antimicrobial agent tested in combination with clavulanic acid versus its zone when tested alone = ESBL (e.g., ceftazidime zone = ESBL (e.g., ceftazidime zone = 16; ceftazidime/clavulanic acid zone= 21)
QC Recommendations	E. coli ATCC 25922 (see control limits in Table 3)  Klebsiella pneumoniae ATCC 700603 :  Cefpodoxime zone 9-16 mm Ceftazidime zone 10-18 mm Aztreonam zone 9-17 mm Cefotaxime zone 17-25 mm Ceftriaxone zone 16-24 mm	E. coli ATCC 25922 : $\leq 2$ mm increase in zone diameter for antimicrobial agent tested alone versus its zone when tested in combination with clavulanic acid. Klebsiella pneumoniae ATCC 700603 : $\geq 5$ mm increase in ceftazidime / clavulanic acid zone diameter; $\geq 3$ - mm increase in cefotaxime / clavulanic acid zone diameter.



**Controls :**

E.coli ATCC 25922(-ve QC)

K.pneumoniae ATCC 700603 (+ve QC)

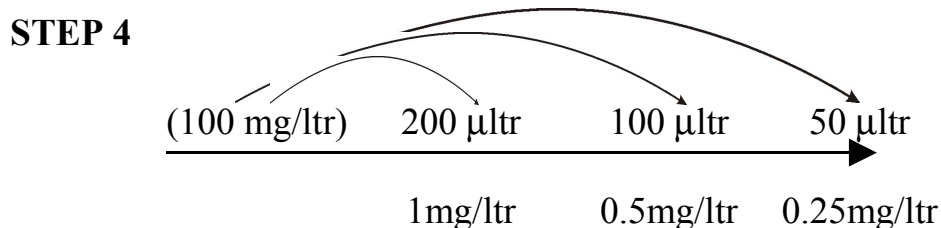
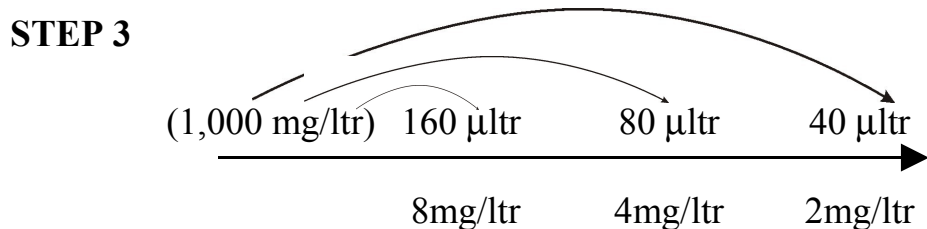
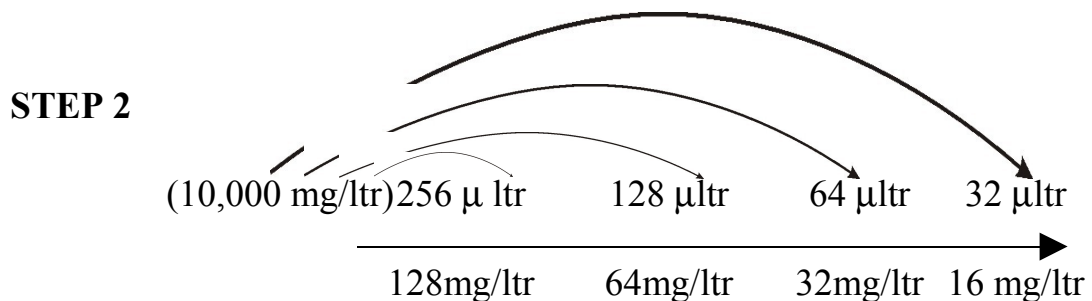
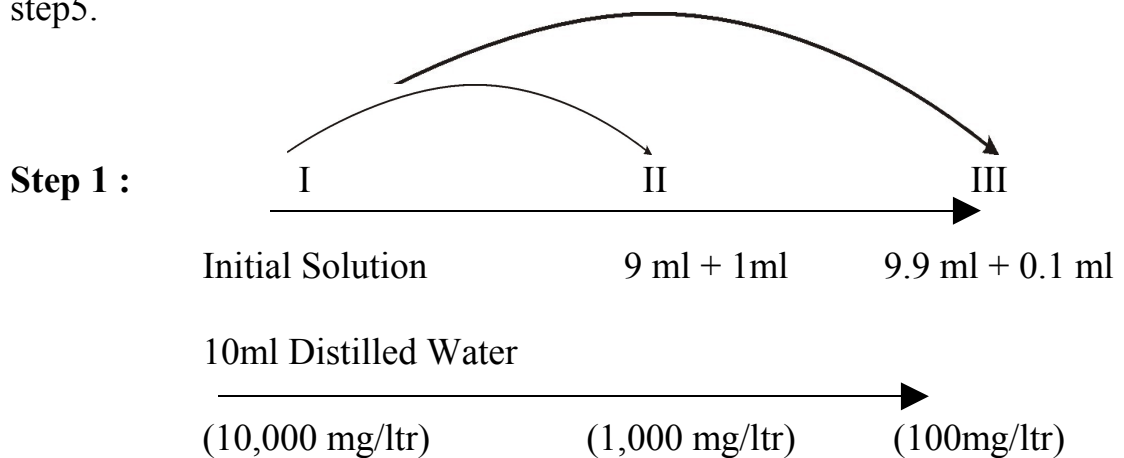
**Quality Control :** (Ref.35) The NCCLS recommends *Klebsiella pneumoniae* ATCC 700603 as an ESBL producing QC control(+ve control) & *Escherichia coli* 25922-as a negative control in ESBL confirmation tests. zones of the cephalosporins and cephalosporins+Clavulanate disks for ESBL negative *E.coli* should be equal or at worst within  $\pm 2$  mm.Any greater difference implies malfunction or deterioration. This screen is then followed by a phenotypic confirmatory test that consist of determining MICs of either cefotaxime or ceftazidime with and without the presence of clavulanic acid 4  $\mu$  gm/ml.

**Etest :** Etest ESBL strip carries two Gradients on the one end Ceftazidime on the opposite end Ceftazidime + Clavulanic acid. MIC is interpreted as the point of intersection of the inhibition ellipse with the E test Strip edge. Ratio of Ceftazidime MIC and Ceftazidime + Clavulanic acid MIC equal to or greater than 8 indicates the presence of ESBL.

**MIC Reduction Test :** An 8 fold reduction in the MIC of Cephalosporin in the presence of clavulanic acid indicates – production of ESBL. (Ref .11). For MIC testing - A decrease of >3 doubling dilutions in an MIC for either Cefotaxime or Ceftazidime tested in combination with 4 µ gm /ml micro gram clavulanic acid vesus the MIC when tested alone confirms an ESBL producing Organism.(Ref.37). In one study (Ref.24) Hansotia et al where 2 micro gram per ml of clavulanic acid as been recommended. The minimum inhibitory concentrations of (MIC) of Ceftazidime, Cefotaxime and Ceftriaxone have to be determined for each of the resistant Isolates by AGAR Dilution method. The inoculum has to be standardized which is essential to provide reproducible MICs. A properly prepared Mc Farland 0.5 turbidity standard is helpful to achieve the correct working inoculum of  $10^7$  cfu / ml. After inoculation with a multi point inoculator, delivering 1-2 microl. The final inoculum on the agar surface will be approximately  $10^4$  cfu / spot. For broth dilution MICs the final Inoculum should be  $10^5$  cfu/ml.

A method of preparing antibiotic dilutions for MICs Ref : Mackie & McCartney practical medical microbiology 14<sup>th</sup> edition page162.

Three stock solutions were prepared in step 1 and used to prepare the working dilutions in steps 2 -4 before addition of agar or broth in step5.



## **STEP 5**

20ml agar was added to all dilution bottles including control bottle to give 10 different concentrations of each antibiotic in MHA and mixed before pouring plates or dispensing broth.

**MIC Determination :** (Ref.24) (Hansotia.et.al.,) The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of cefotaxime, ceftazidime has to be determined for each of the resistant isolates by Agar Dilution method using an inoculum size of  $10^5$  CFU/ML. Serial two fold dilutions of each test antibiotic were incorporated in Mueller Hinton Agar to give 13 or 10 different concentrations of each antibiotic in MHA. (0.03125-128  $\mu$ gm / ml. In one study (Ref. 8) - eight two fold dilutions of test antibiotic has been recommended.

### **MIC Reduction Test (Hansotia. et.al.,)**

The MICs of Third Generation Cephalosporins test antibiotics determined earlier for each of the 45 resistant isolates has to be noted. Similarly the MICs of each 3 generation cephalosporins, test antibiotic combined with 4  $\mu$ gm/ML of clavulanic Acid has to be determined for each resistant isolate at different concentrations. (0.0625 – 4  $\mu$ gm/ML) of

test antibiotic in MHA. The reduction in MIC was calculated by the fractional. Inhibitory concentrations (FIC) index. (Ref. 24)

$$\text{FIC Index} = \frac{\text{MIC of 3 GC test antibiotic combined with clavulanic Acid}}{\text{MIC of 3 GC Test Antibiotic alone.}}$$

An index of less than 0.5 was considered as evidence of synergism

## **II Molecular Techniques**

1. DNA Probes : Early detection of B. Lactamase genes was performed using DNA probes, that were specific for TEM & SHV. enzymes. DNA sequencing has become the gold standard for analyzing novel beta lactamase genes

2. Obligo Typing - Developed by the Queltelle et al. Used to discriminate between TEM 1 and TEM 2

3. PCR – PCR with oligonucleotide primers that are specific for a betalactamase gene. Obligonucleotide primers can be chosen from sequences available in public databases such as Genbank.

4. PCR – RFLP add Restriction Fragment length polymorphism analysis to PCR.

5. PCR – SSCP – Single strand conformational polymorphism.

6. LCR : Ligase chain reaction.

7. ISO electric Forcussing Analysis.

8. PFGE – Pulse field gel electrophoresis – An epidemiological tool is used to study clonal spread and hospital outbreak.

## **Epidemiology**

ESBLs are now a problem in hospitalized patients worldwide. The frequency of their occurrence in clinical infection is increasing globally. It Ranges from 5% In Canadian Hospitals to > 25 % in Western Pacific and > 50 % in Indian Hospitals.

The source of ESBL : Hospital or community : (Ref. 31). Community acquired outbreaks of ESBL infections are emerging due to increasing use of broad spectrum antibiotics in the community and due to large number of ESBL positive patients who carry the organisms from hospitals to community. Out breaks may be associated with inadequately disinfected equipments or contaminated surface levels – Hand Touch Sites – Hands are chief route whereby patients acquire hospital strains and hand washing programmes for staff are likely to impact on hospital acquired infection rates.

Molecular epidemiology (Ref. 36) : The mechanism of spread may be clonal strain dissemination, clonal plasmid dissemination and selection among polyclonal strains or both. The methods of transmission includes – clonal dissemination of an ESBL producer strain or the dissemination of a plasmid carrying an ESBL gene. Selective antibiotic pressure then leads to colonization of patient's skin and bowel with a risk

of subsequent infection. Thus fecal colonization may play a critical role. Out breaks may be associated with procedures – catheterization and contamination of medical devices. Through health care personal hands spread then appears to occur. Because of patient colonization, environmental contamination and hand transmission endemic strains may persists in health care settings for years. To prevent the spread and outbreak of ESBL producing microorganisms, proper infection prevention and control practices are essential.

Surveillance : Systematic method of collecting, consolidating, analyzing and distributing data with critical information on the distribution and determination of a given disease or event.

Best practices : The following practices are organized into five categories. Antibiotic stewardship – Infection control professionals play a role, Surveillance and screening, Precautions, Hand hygiene and antisepsis, Disinfection / environment.

Surveillance and screening : Preventing and controlling the spread of ESBLs is having an effective and consistent approach to surveillance. The activity of surveillance starts with micro laboratory reporting and then an assessment of patient's risk factors for colonization. Screening of

high risk target population, Neutropenic elderly patients, transplant recipients, premature neonates, post gastrointestinal surgery, prolonged extensive antibiotic use (Cephalosporins) and high risk unit admissions, ICUS, Hematology, oncology units, transplantation units, are all necessary.

The frequency of occurrence of an outbreak is dependent whether the successful clone begins to survive within hospitals and causes an outbreak. These outbreaks are often fueled by the large number of patient transfers between units & between hospitals.

Specific Risk Factors which will predispose to an outbreak were : Length of hospital stay, time in the ICU, intubation and mechanical ventilation, urinary or arterial catheterization, prior hospitalisation, old age 60 years, Prior use of Antibiotic therapy within previous 3 months, Males, debilitated patients confined to bed, many of the patients infected with ESBLs are found in ICUs, surgical and neonatal wards.

There is a need to study the role of environment, animal sources, hospital sludge play in the transmission of ESBLs between the species and inter and intra hospital spread. Efficient infection control practices



for containment of outbreaks – will require intervention strategies such as restriction of the use of Oxyimino- cephalosporins and Antibiotic cycling.

A successful approach to the control of the spread of ESBL producing organisms involved switching to different classes of broad spectrum antibiotics. Two most successful replacement antibiotics have been imipenem and piperacillin – tazobactam (Ref. 30)

Molecular methods for studying the epidemiology of the strains involved in outbreaks are

Plasmid Profiles

Pulse field gel electrophoresis

Ribotyping

RAPD – Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA

AP – PCR – Arbitrarily Primed - PCR

### **Prevention of spread of ESBL positive organisms in the ward**

Infection control precautions – barrier nursing, cohorting of patients and nurses. Contact precautions – use of disposable gloves, gowns and strict attention to handwashing. Infection control policy. Formulation of an appropriate hospital antibiotic policy will be necessary.

Co resistance to quinolones and amino glycosides are common. Usage of quinolones should be restricted as far as possible as they are strong selectors of ESBL producers.

**Treatment** : Treatment of ESBL producing strains of entrobactriaceae has emerged as a major challenge in hospitalized as well as in community based patients. These organisms are responsible for a variety of infections.

Urinary tract infection

Septicemia

Hospital acquired Pneumonia

Intra abdominal abscess

Brain abscess

Device related infections

### **Management decisions in the treatment of ESBL producers**

Non antibiotic approach, Removal of the source of the infection – Removal or replacement of the foreign body or prosthetic device becomes necessary because infections of surgical implant and devices are associated with bio-film formation. Removal of a ESBL colonized intravascular line (Central venous catheter – Peripheral venous catheter) change of a colonized indwelling urinary catheter drainage of an intra

abdominal abscess removal of an infected prosthetic device, heart, valve prosthetic joint. Combination of imipenem + Amikacine was great in the treatment of life threatening infections like septicemia hospital acquired pneumonia intra visceral abscess due to faster killing rates of amikacin.

A few Beta lactams, 7 Alfa methoxy cephalosporins – Cefoxitin, Cefotetan are effective. Beta Lactam,  $\beta$  lactamase inhibitor combination is very useful. Organisms such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* - may become deficient in the crucial outer membrane proteins thereby rendering the Beta lactam – Beta lactamase inhibitor combination clinically ineffective.

OPAT – Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy :- Intra venous administration of ertapenem and aminoglycosides (Gentamicin) once daily has given greater options in OPAT setting. (Ref. 31)

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

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## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The study was conducted in the Department Microbiology, Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, Coimbatore from October 2004 to September 2005.

The subjects considered for our study were 120 patients admitted in the post operative surgical wards with surgical wound infections and those who had inclusive criteria of Grade IV (pus) of south ampton wound grading system. The study material consist of wound swabs from post operative surgical wound site. Samples were collected from them using the following protocol – sample collection technique - The wound area was wiped with sterile saline (or 70% alcohol) swabbed along the leading edge of the wound. Wound swabs were collected from 120 patients with clinical infected wounds and 15 from out patients attending the Review OPD (After discharge surveillance).

In each case two swabs were taken from the clinically infected wound site, on the third post operative day i.e. at the time of first change of dressing, used for culture. From the other swab smears were made gram stained and examined microscopically. After discharge surveillance swabs – two were taken one for bacterial culture and other for smear

preparation. When Gram stained smears were examined under the microscope, gram negative rods were seen (GNB). All the specimens were inoculated onto the following media. Nutrient Agar, Blood Agar, Macconkey Agar. Incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. After incubation for 24 hours the plates were examined for growth and the morphology of the colonies has been observed. The gram negative bacilli colonies were tested for a panel of biochemical tests.

Based on colony morphology and a panel of biochemical tests – the organisms were identified upto the species level. The antimicrobial susceptibility of all the isolated aerobic bacterial organisms was done by KIRBY BAUER Disk diffusion method using Mueller-Hinton –Agar and the following anti microbial disks.

Amikacin 30 micro gram	Cefotaxime – 30 micro gram
Gentamicine 10 micro gram	Ceftazidime – 30 micro gram
Ciprofloxacin 5 micro gram	Ceftriaxone – 30 micro gram
Oflaxacin 5 micro gram	Co-trinaxazole 25 micro gram

**Inoculum standardization :** (According to NCCLS ( KIRBY-BAUER))

When using the technique of KIRBY-BAUER, inoculum is standardized according to the method described by the NCCLS, which normally results in more dense growth and therefore smaller inhibition

Culture Plates (MacConkey Agar) showing *Escherichia coli* (LF), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (MLF), *Proteus mirabilis* (NLF) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in nutrient Agar (bluish green pigment production).

## BIOCHEMICAL TESTS

### ***Escherichia coli***

1. Indole = +ve
2. Glucose = +ve
3. Lactose = +ve
4. Sucrose = +ve
5. Mannitol = +ve
6. Citrate utilization = - ve
7. Urease production = -ve
8. TSI = A/A = Acid slant / Acid butt and gas production
9. Methyl red test = +ve
10. Voges – proskauer test = -ve

### ***Klebsiella pneumoniae***

1. Indole = -ve
2. Glucose = +ve (Acid and Gas)
3. Lactose = +ve
4. Sucrose = +ve
5. Mannitol = +ve
6. Citrate utilization = + ve
7. Urease production = +ve
8. TSI = A/A = Acid slant / Acid butt and gas production
9. Methyl red test = -ve
10. Voges – proskauer test = +ve

### ***Proteus mirabilis***

### ***Escherichia coli***

11. Indole = -ve
12. Glucose = +ve (Acid and Gas)
13. Lactose = -ve
14. Sucrose = -ve
15. Mannitol = -ve
16. Citrate utilization = - ve
17. Urease production = +ve
18. TSI = K/A = Alkaline slant / Acid butt, gas and H<sub>2</sub>S production +ve

### ***Pseudomonas aeruginosa***

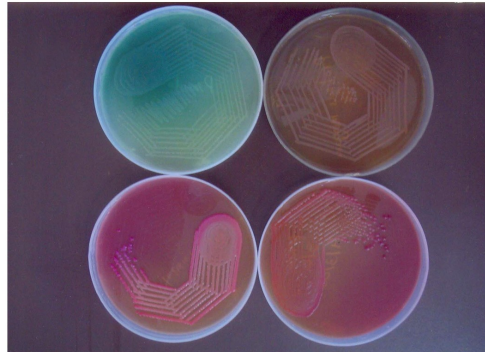
### ***Klebsiella pneumoniae***

11. Indole = -ve
12. Glucose = Only Acid
13. Lactose = - ve
14. Sucrose = - ve
15. Mannitol = - ve
16. Citrate utilization = + ve
17. Urease production = +ve
18. TSI = K/K = Alkaline slant and butt negative for H<sub>2</sub>S and gas production.

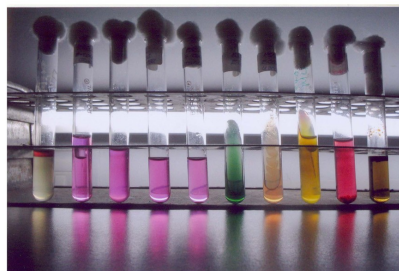
### ***Pseudomonas aeruginosa***

### ***Proteus mirabilis***

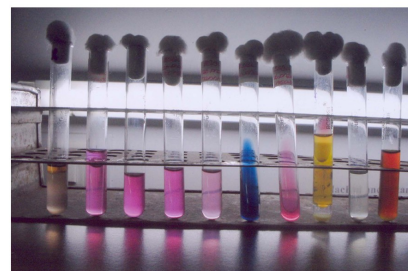
## ORGANISM ISOLATED FROM WOUND SWAB



## BIOCHEMICAL TESTS



*ESCHERICHIA coli*



*KLEBSIELLA pneumoniae*



*PROTEUS mirabilis*



Biochemical reactions of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*



zones than for semi confluent growth. Two to three colonies have been suspended into 10 ml physiological saline and thereafter diluted 0.1 ml / 10 ml. For Enterobacteriaceae and other gram negative rods 1 to 2 drops (for 9cm plate 3 to 4 drops for 14cm plate) of the final suspension have been taken and applied on to the Agar surface and distributed with a glass rod. The open plate is then dried at 35-37°C for 10-15 minutes before the disks are placed onto the Agar surface.

The plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours and the Diameter of the zone of inhibition for each antimicrobial disk was measured and recorded as resistant, intermediate and susceptible according to the standard NCCLS interpretative criteria. Those isolates which were gram –ve and showed resistance to Cefotaxime, Ceftazidime, Ceftriaxone were included in this study. 45 isolates which were gram –ve and were found to be resistant to all 3 GC antibiotics were selected for further study. All of them were screened and confirmed for ESBL production. The following methods were adopted for ESBL detection.

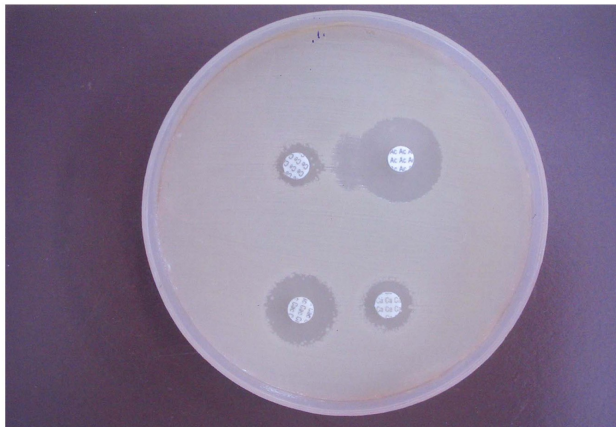
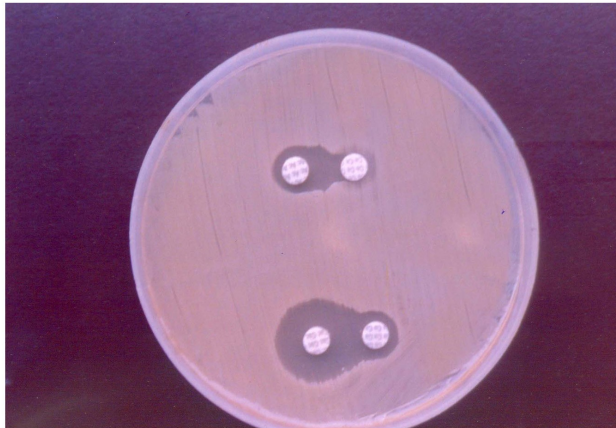
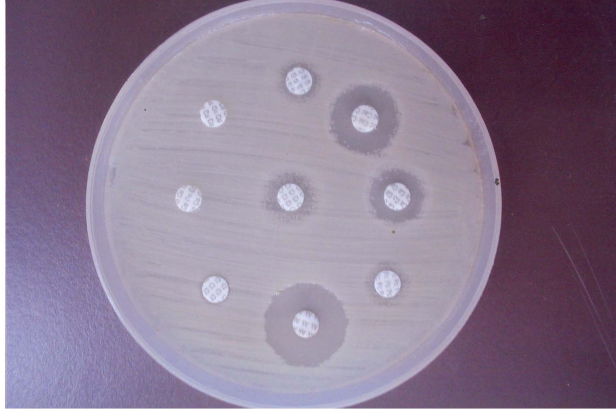
1. Screening by Double Disk approximation test
2. Confirmation by phenotypic confirmatory Double Disk Diffusion test.

1. Double Disk approximation test : In this test the organism is swabbed onto a Mueller – Hinton Agar Plate. A susceptible disk containing

DDAT shows enhancement in the zone of cefotaxime Disk on the side facing the Augmentin indicating the production of ESBL by the isolate.

NCCLS confirmatory test – shows increase in zone diameter more than 5mm around the ceftazidime plus clavulanic acid disk compared to ceftazidime disk alone indicating the presence of ESBL in the isolate.

## ANTIBIOTIC SUBCEPTIBILITY TEST & ESBL DETECTION



Amoxycillin 20µg and 10µg Clavulanic acid (Augmentin) is placed in the center of the plate. Disk containing one of the (30µg) oxyimino betalactum antibiotics are placed 30mm center to center from the Amoxycillin – Clavulanate Disk incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. It was observed that the zone size around the test antibiotic was increased towards the Augmentin Disk.

## 2. Confirmation by phenotypic confirmatory Double Disk Diffusion test :

This was done as per the NCCLS recommendations. On Muller Hinton Agar, Four Disks containing cefotaxime (30µg), cefotaxime / clavulanic acid (30µg / 10µg), ceftazidime (30µg), and ceftazidime / clavulanic acid (30µg / 10µg) were used. There was a > 5mm increase in zone diameter for either antimicrobial tested in combination with clavulanic acid versus its zone when tested alone, which confirmed ESBL production. ESBL was deducted in 20 isolates of *Escherichia.coli* and 25 isolates of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (Table IV) and in none of the isolates of *Proteus Spp* and *Pseudomonas.aeruginosa*.

MIC Determination : Agar Dilution Technique – All antimicrobial agents were prepared freshly before each use to avoid any loss of potency. MHA was prepared and sterilized at 121°C for 15 minutes. The pH of each batch of MHA was checked when the medium was prepared – The medium is allowed to cool to 45-50°C in a water bath. Appropriate dilutions of antimicrobial agents were added to molten test agars. The agar and anti microbial solutions were mixed thoroughly and the mixture was poured into petri dishes to result in a agar depth of 3-4 mm.

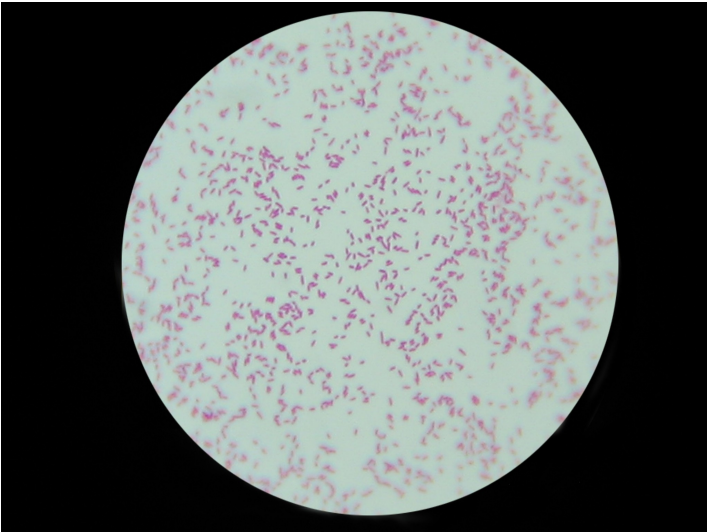
Control plates – Drug free plates prepared from the base medium was used as growth controls.

Antimicrobial concentration and inoculum preparation – serial two fold dilutions of test antibiotic were incorporated in Muller – Hinton Agar to give 13 different concentrations of each antibiotic in MHA (0.03125-128 µgm/ml). The test inoculum was prepared with an overnight growth of each isolate, which was adjusted to a turbidity equivalent to 0.5 McFarland standard. Test organism was inoculated in each concentration Agar dilution plate with one µl of this suspension ( $10^5$  CFU/ml) and the plates were incubated at 37°C. The MICs of cefotaxime, ceftazidime for

each of the resistant isolates were determined and noted. Similarly the MICs of cefotaxime, ceftazidime combined with 4µgm/ml of clavulanic

MIC of cefotaxime by Agar dilution method for ESBL producers.

1. Photograph showing cefotaxime (cef) antibiotic dilution.
2. MIC determination by Agar dilution method.
3. Photograph showing Gram Negative Rods (GNR).



acid, were also determined for each resistant isolate at different concentrations (0.0625 -4 $\mu$ gm/ml). It was found that there was a decrease of >3 doubling dilutions in MICs of cefotaxime, ceftazidime with clavulanic acid compared to the MICs of cefotaxime, ceftazidime.



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RESULTS

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## RESULTS

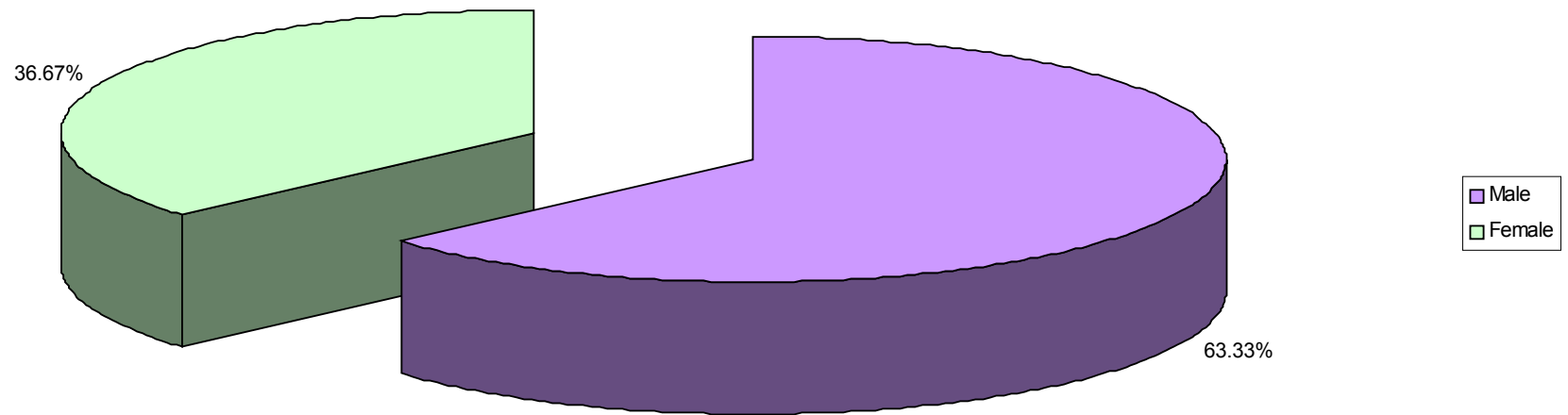
**Table -I**

**Sex distribution among post surgical patients in this study**

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Total Number of patients</b>	<b>Percentage of Post surgical patients</b>
1	Male	76	63.33%
2	Female	44	36.67%

The total number of patients screened were 120 of which Males = 76 = 63.3%, Females = 44 = 36.67% (Table-I).

**Chart -I**  
**Sex distribution among post surgical patients in this study**



**Table -II**

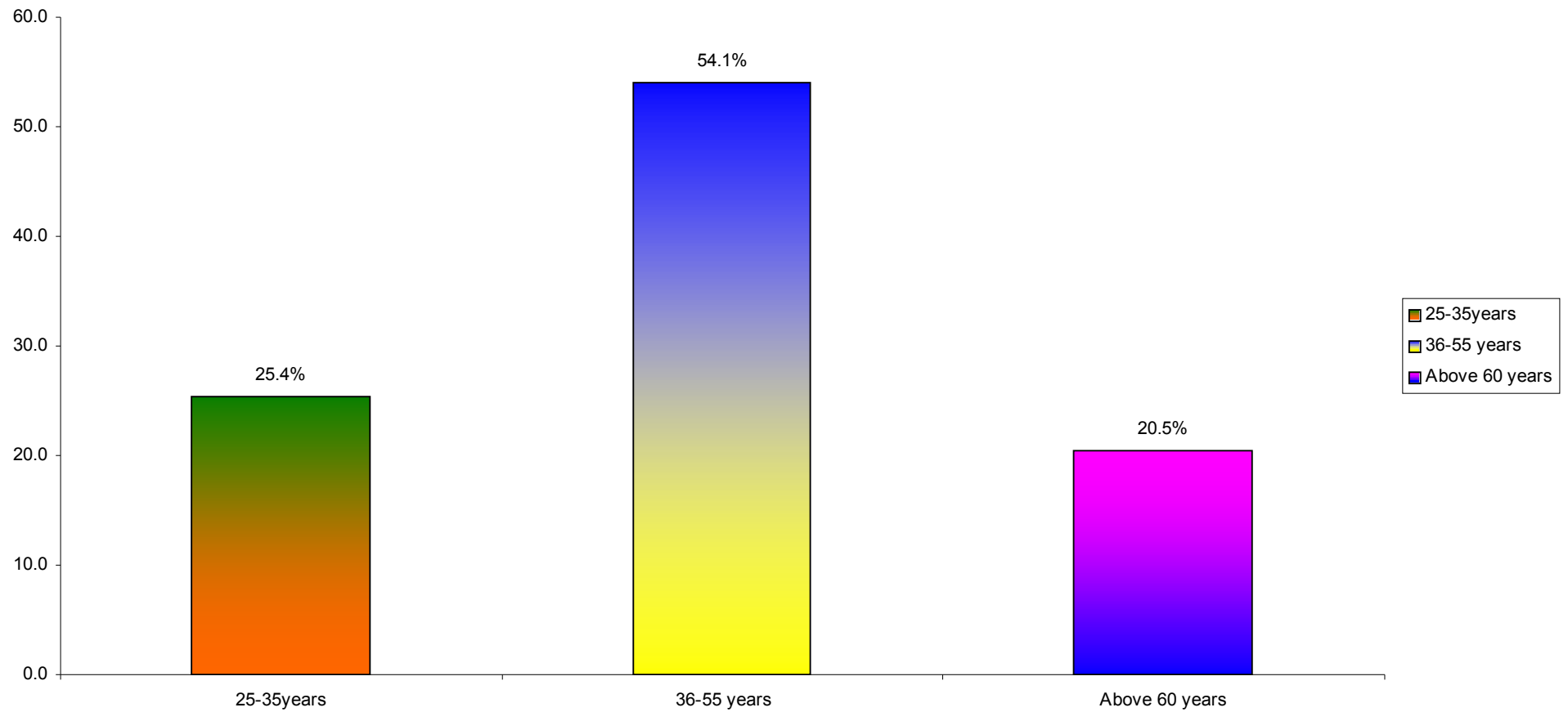
**Age distribution among post surgical patients in this study**

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Percentage of Post surgical patients</b>
1	25-35 years	25.4%
2	36-55 years	54.1%
3	Above 60 years	20.5%

Patients included in this study were of 25-30 years (25.4%), 36-55 years (54.1%), above 60 years (20.5%) (Table – II)

Socio Economic Status : Patients included in this study were belong to low socio economic group.

**Chart -II**  
**Age distribution among post surgical patients in this study**



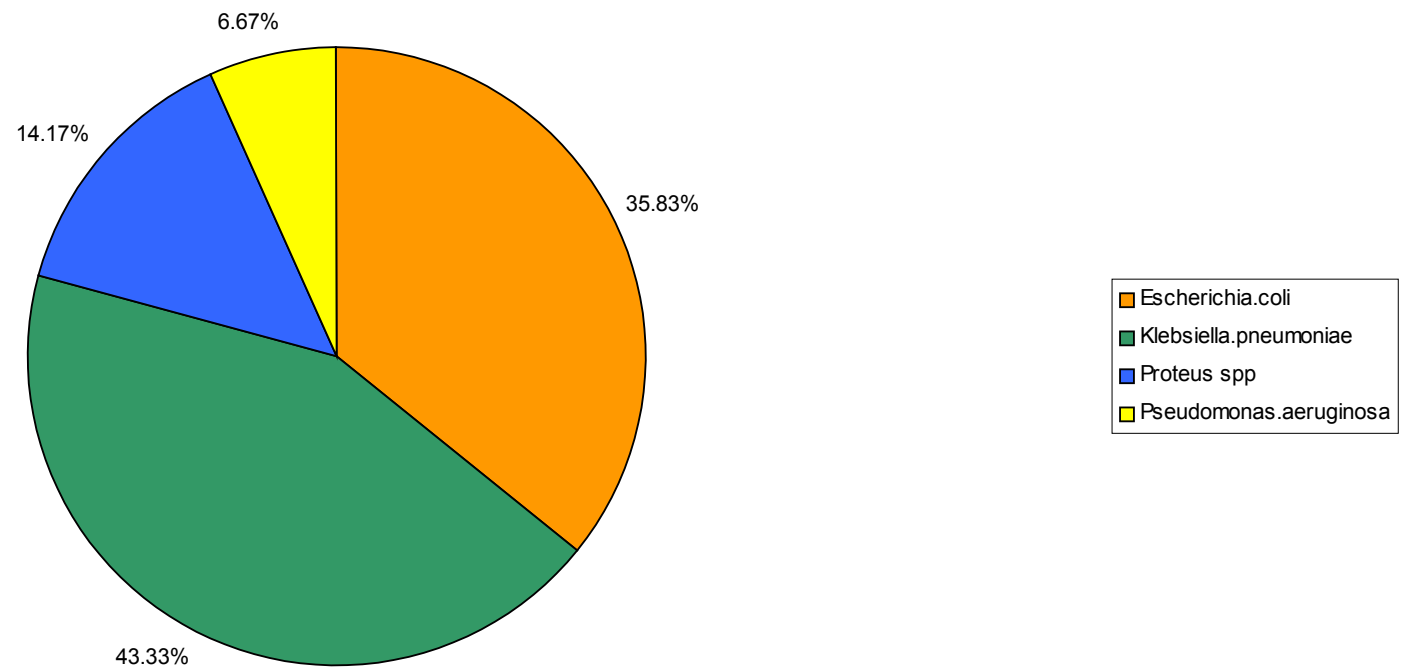
**Table - III**

**Distribution of the various organisms isolated form from post  
operative surgical wound infections**

<b>Organism</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Escherichia.coli	35.83
Klebsiella.pneumoniae	43.33
Proteus spp	14.17
Pseudomonas.aeruginosa	6.67

A total of one hundred and twenty organisms were isolated. They were Escherichia.coli = 43, Klebsiella.pneumoniae = 52, Proteus.spp = 17, Pseudomonas.aeruginosa=8 (Table-III)

**Chart-III**  
**Distribution of the various organisms isolated form from post operative surgical wound infections**



**Table -IV**

**Distribution of ESBL +ve Strains among the different organisms  
isolated**

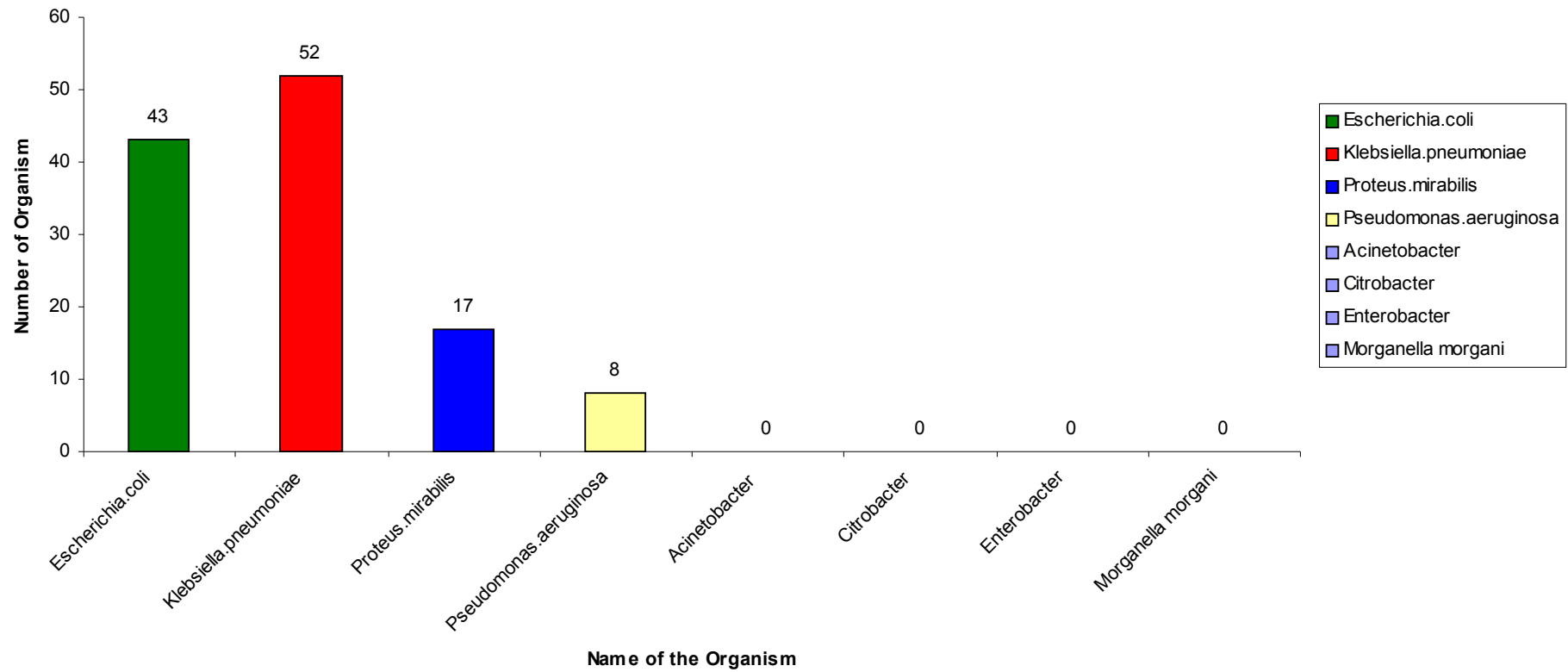
<b>Organism</b>	<b>Number of Organisms isolated</b>	<b>Number of ESBL +ve strains</b>	<b>Percentage of ESBL Strains</b>
Escherichia.coli	43	20	46.50%
Klebsiella.pneumoniae	52	25	48.07%
Proteus.mirabilis	17	-	-
Pseudomonas.aeruginosa	8	-	-
Acinetobacter	-	-	-
Citrobacter	-	-	-
Enterobacter	-	-	-
Morganella morgani	-	-	-
TOTAL	120	45	37.50

Out one hundred and twenty isolates 45 were found to be ESBL producers (37.50% of the total isolates) Escherichia.coli = 20 (46.50%), Klebsiella.pneumoniae = 25 (48.07%) (Table-IV)

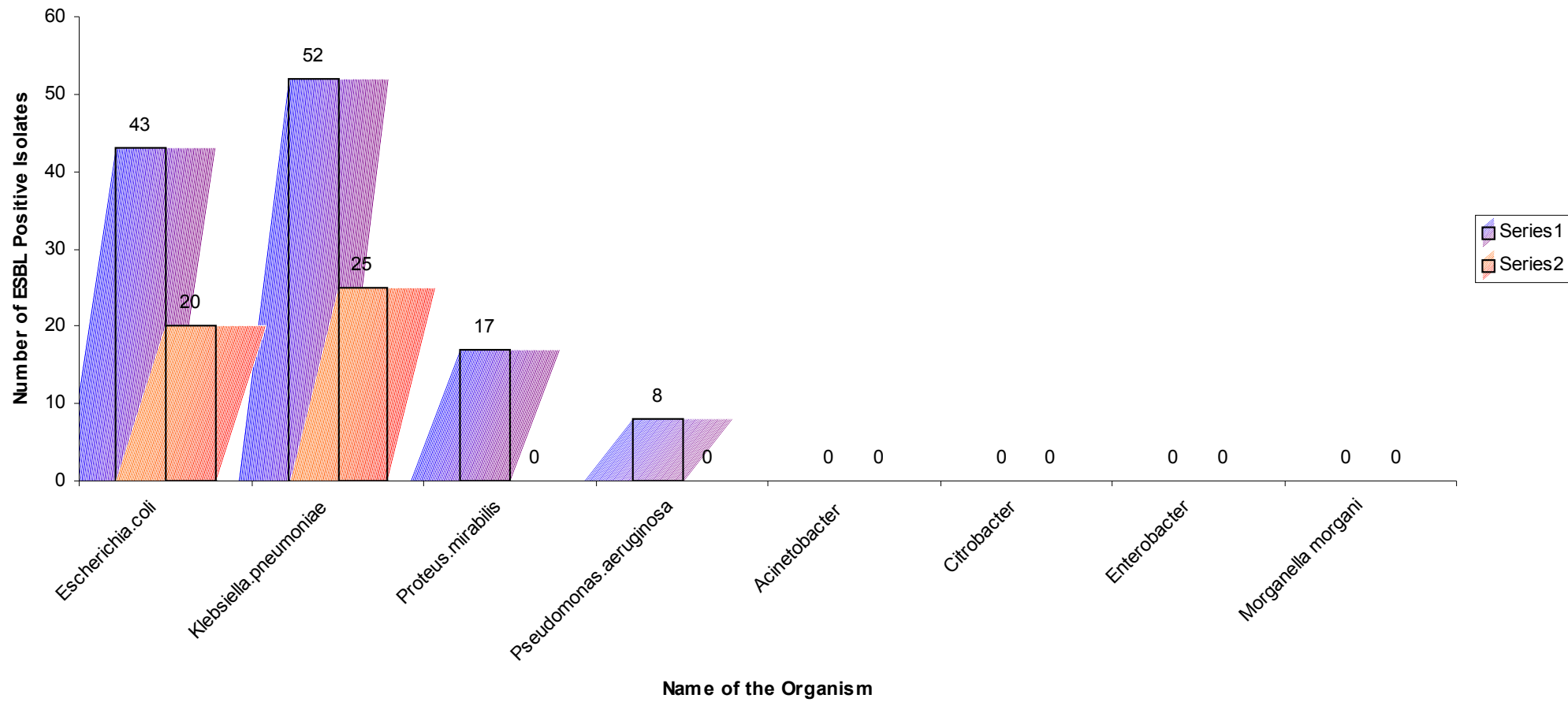




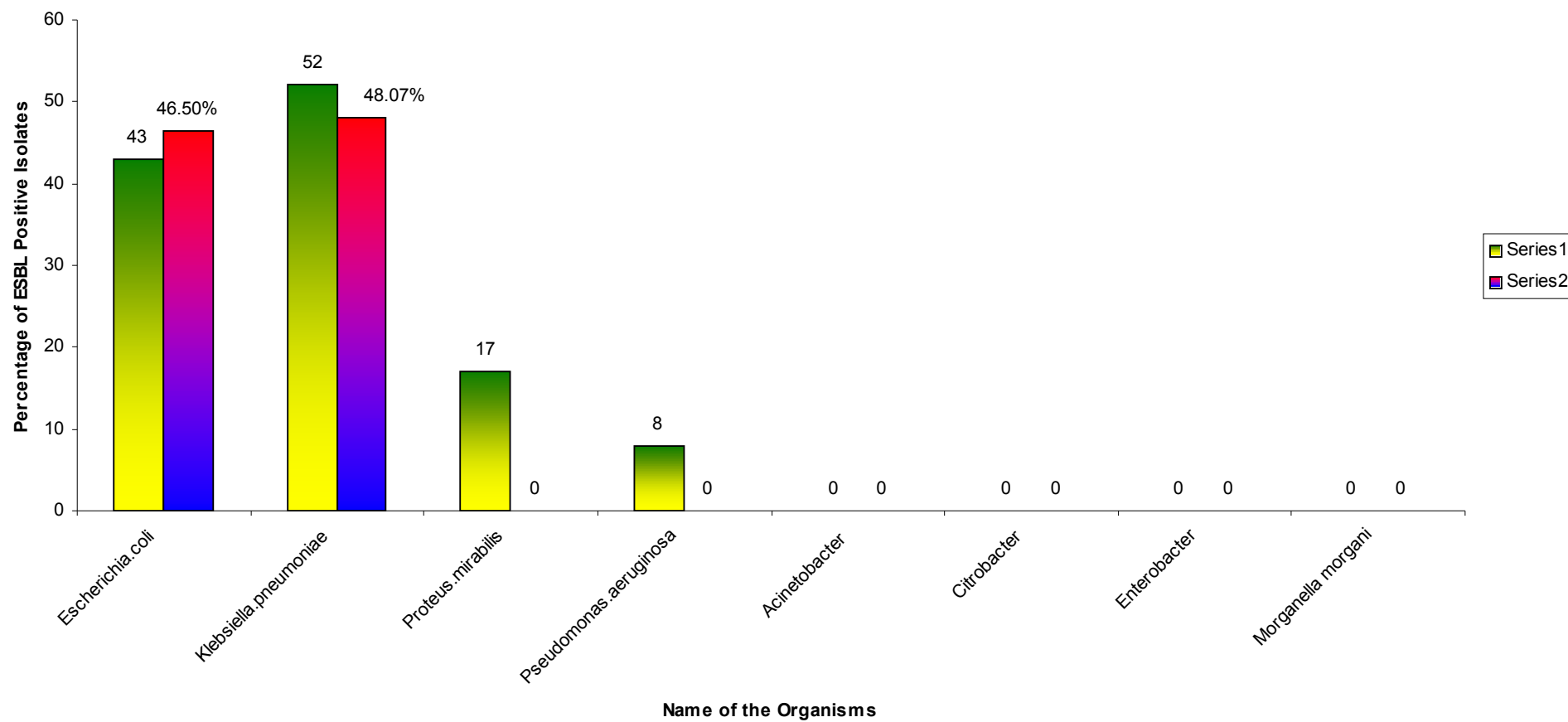
**Char - IV**  
**Distribution of the Various Organisms Isolated from**  
**Post Operative Surgical Wound Infections**



**Chart - V**  
**Number of ESBL positive isolates detected among isolates from post operative wound infections**



**Chart - VI**  
**Percentage of ESBL positive isolates detected among isolates from post operative wound infections**



## **ESBL producing gram negative bacilli - screening versus confirmatory test**

When the results of the initial screening tests for the two major gram negative isolates were compared with the results of the confirmatory test for ESBL test it was found that the majority of the isolates that were positive in the screening in the screening test were also positive by the confirmatory testing, although some of the isolates that were positive in the screening test were negative for ESBL productions when tested by the confirmatory method. (Table-V)

**Table -V**

### **ESBL producing gram negative bacilli - screening versus confirmatory test**

<b>Confirmatory Test Result</b>	<b>Isolates Positive on Screening Test</b>		<b>Isolates Negative on Screening Test</b>	
	<b>E-coli</b>	<b>Klebsiella Spp</b>	<b>E-coli</b>	<b>Klebsiella Spp</b>
Positive	20 (46.50%)	25 (48.07%)	0	0
Negative	3 (6.9%)	4 (7.6%)	0	0

**Table VI**

**Antimicrobial resistance of ESBL producing isolates to Third Generation Cephalosporins**

<b>Organism</b>	<b>CTAX</b>	<b>CTRX</b>	<b>CTAZ</b>
Escherichia coli (20)	42.17%	40.01%	41.97%
Klebsiella pneumoniae (25)	43.45%	38.83%	43.41%

Antimicrobial Resistance Pattern of ESBL producing isolates (45) to CTAX, CTRX, CTAZ, showed resistance percentage of 85.62% (CTAX), 78.84% (CTRX), 85.38% (CTAZ). In this study among the betalactam antibiotics the maximum degree of resistance was seen to ceftazidime, cefotaxime and then ceftaxime.

**Table VII**

**Antimicrobial resistance of ESBL producing isolates to**

**Non beta lactum antibiotics**

<b>Organism</b>	<b>OFX</b>	<b>Ciprofloxi</b> <b>n</b>	<b>Gentamici</b> <b>n</b>	<b>Co-trimaxzone</b>
Escherichis .coli (20)	36.77%	37.81%	36.77%	42.17%
Klebsiella pneumoniae (25)	41.60%	48.38%	40.69%	47.15%

Antimicrobial resistance of ESBL producing isolates to non beta lactum antibiotics were also studied and noted that among ESBL producing isolates (45) there was associated high level co-resistance to Co-trimaxzone (89.32%), ciprofloxacin (86.19%), ofloxacin (78.37%), and gentamicin (77.46%).

**Table VIII**

**Antimicrobial Susceptibility Pattern of ESBL Positive Isolates  
to Non Beta lactam antibiotics**

<b>Organism</b>	<b>R/All</b>	<b>S/G</b>	<b>S/Cip</b>	<b>S/AK</b>	<b>S/OFX</b>	<b>S/COTX</b>
Escherichia.coli (20)	-	10%	5%	100%	10%	5%
Klebsiella pneumoniae (25)	-	8%	8%	88%	16%	-

Antimicrobial Susceptibility Pattern of ESBL Positive Isolates to Non Beta lactam antibiotics were also studied and found that most of them were found to be highly susceptible to amikacin, but the level of susceptibility to co-trimaxazole (5%) quinolones (ciprofloxacin 13%, ofloxacin 26%) and gentamicin 18% were found to be comparatively low.



**Table IX****Susceptibility Results for ESBL Positive isolates by****Agar Dilution method**

<b>Method</b>	<b>MIC in microgram/ml</b>			
	CTAX	CTAX + CLA	CTAZ	CTAZ + CLA
Resistant isolates ESBL producing (45)	4(8)	0.25	2(9)	0.125
	8(9)	0.5	16(7)	>0.5
	16(9)	>0.25	8(10)	0.5
	32(7)	0.5	4(7)	0.25
	64(7)	>0.5	32(8)	0.5
	<128(5)	1	64(4)	>0.5

A fixed concentration of 4 micro gram of clavulanic acid per ml was used in conjunction with each antimicrobial agent. Figures in parentheses = ( ) Number of isolates, CTAX = Cefotaxime, CTAZ = Ceftazidime, CLA = Clavulanic acid

The susceptibility Results for ESBL Positive isolates by Agar Dilution method (MIC determination) were studied and analysed. It was found that there was a decrease of >3 doubling dilutions in MICs of cefotaxime, ceftazidine with clavulanic acid compared to the MIC of cefotaxime, ceftazidine alone.

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DISCUSSION

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## DISCUSSION

Of one hundred and twenty isolates – 45 were found to be ESBL producers. Which were screened and confirmed by NCCL methods. This study, showed a prevalence rate of 37.5% of the total isolates of ESBLs, among Enterobacteriaceae in post operative wound infection (world wide prevalence <1 to 74%). In India the prevalence rate varies from 28 to 84% whereas in the U.S it was 0 to 25% and the national average is 3% (CDCNNIS). The high percentage of ESBL producing isolates (37.5%) deduced in this study may be due to selective pressure imposed by extensive use of antimicrobials in the ICU ward and Post operative wards. The prevalence rate of ESBL detected in this study was 37.5%. But the prevalence rates deduced by both Priya Datta in a tertiary care hospital in India and Kanungo et al Department of Microbiology JIPMER, were 12.6% and 20.5% respectively which were found to be lower than the value reported in the study (32,18). But the prevalence rate reported by C. Rodrigues et al was 53% which was found to be higher than the value detected in this study (28). The prevalence rate of ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* detected in this study was 48.07%. But as per the studies of Hansotia et al in 1997, the prevalence of ESBL producing *Klebsiella* isolates was detected as 76.5% (24) in central India which was found to be higher than this study. Kanungo et al in their

studies stated that the prevalence of ESBL producing *Klebsiella* isolates was 43.75% (18) which was lower than the value reported in this study. The results of foreign studies have been studied by Subha et al in 2001. The incidence of ESBL producing *Klebsiella* isolates in the United States has been reported to be 5%. In France and England – 14 to 16% ESBL producing *Klebsiella* isolates have been reported. In a report from France, 24.8% ESBL positive *Klebsiella pneumoniae* were found in patients of more than 16 year of age. In another report from France – 3.5% of ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* was obtained in patients with a mean age of 66 year. This shows that there is a wide disparity between Indian studies and Foreign studies. In this study a prevalence of ESBL producing *Escherichia coli* was identified as 46.50%. But Kanungo et al (18) and Anandhakrishna of JIPMER (18) in 2000 had reported incidence of 58.06% which was higher than the value of this study. Further they had reported 57.14% for ESBL producing *Enterobacter* species (18).

**Sensitivity and Specificity of ESBL detection test** – while referring the studies of Priya Datta it was found that a comparison of three test DDST, 3 Dimensional Test (3D) and IPT was made for the screening of ESBL strains (32). In their study IPT was found to be best screening method when combined with use of a ceftriaxone disk. IPT detected the maximum number of ESBL producing strains. Ceftriaxone detected the maximum ESBL rate in DDS, 3D and IPT followed by cefotaxime and

ceftazidime (32). Courdron et al found the sensitivity of ceftriaxone to be 88% ceftazidime 79% for these ESBL screening methods. Further it was confirmed by Hoe et al studies which has reported IPT was 100% sensitive and DDS was 96% sensitive (32). According to C.S. Anders – ESBL detection was made, in their study, by the comparison of 3 Dimensional Test (3D) and double disk Test. In which the 3D test provided more sensitivity of 93% of the ESBL producing strains than Double Disk Test (26). By DDST, 76.5% of Klebsiella isolates resistant to 3G cephalosporins antibiotics was found to produce ESBLs, which was studied by Suba et al in 2002 in Central India (13). When analyzing the sensitivity of DDST it was found that Thomson Sanders has reported DDS to be 79% sensitive, Vercauteren et al found the sensitivity to be 93% and Shukla et al reported 90.6% sensitive, which were co-related with this study. Some studies questioned the sensitivity of Double Disk Test. Several modifications have been recommended including changing the distance between the Disks. A distance of 20mm center to center has been recommended by Priya Datta, Archana Thakur in their study (32). A distance of 30 mm from center to center has been recommended by U. Chaudhry, R. Agarwal (11). The MICs of most cephalosporins rose dramatically when the inoculum of susceptibility test was raised from  $10^5$  to  $10^7$  CFU/ml. which was found by Medeiros and Crellin. It was reported by Rasheed et al that the production of that the production of

SHV-1 in a strain of *K. pneumoniae* that was also lacking an Outer membrane porin protein caused a false positive in ESBL detection tests that looked at the differential between the MICs of oxyimino –  $\beta$  lactam antibiotics with and without clavulanate. The presence of an ESBL can also be masked by the expression of an Amp C type enzyme in the same strain. (Ref: above).

The prevalence of ESBLs in post operative wound infection may be reduced in hospitals by instituting a hospital infection control cell, which will advise periodic Antibiotic rotation. (Every 6 months).

Apart from this there was associated resistance to other antibiotics (Table VIII). The enzymes were disseminated by the spread of either plasmids or strains, as suggested by epidemiological studies. The location of the ESBL genes on plasmids may also explain a problem of co-resistance. Such plasmid responsible for the development of Multi Drug Resistant Strains as they may also carry co-resistance genes to aminoglycosides, quinolones, co-trimoxazole. In this study prevalence of ESBL was associated with a high degree of co-resistance to the above drugs, hence there is a necessity for using alternate antibiotics to which these organisms may be susceptible. Formulation of an appropriate Hospital Antibiotic Policy will be necessary to control these infections.

Because of selective pressure due to heavy use of expanded spectrum cephalosporins and also due to lapses in effective infection control measures, there are chances of increase of institutional out breaks. From one ESBL enzyme to another the optimal substrate profile may varies. For this reason susceptibility panels with one extended spectrum cephalosporins cannot predict resistance to other extended spectrum cephalosporins. NCCLS has recommended use of more than one substrate for screening (Ref. 32). The use of cefepime allows ESBL detection in isolates simultaneously producing Amp.c.

The findings detected in this study were co-related with risk factors like prolonged hospital stay, period of stay in SICU, urinary catheterization for post operative patients, all of which will predispose to an out break. There was empirical prescription of Ampicilli, gentamicine and metronidazole for post operative patients. Ciprofloxacin, ceftriaxone or ceftazidime or cefotaxine was added later on which will lead to prolonged hospital stay. The carbapenam antibiotics were not used at all. Further these ESBL strains will acquire co-resistance genes on plasmids.

To prevent the acquisition of these infections, precautionary measures should be taken – control of their spread by having an effective consistent approach to surveillance is important. Sensitivity and

specificity of ESBL deduction test. Even though there are merits and shortcomings of each of the detection test Double disk approximation test of Jarlier et al and the Broth Dilution MIC reduction method (NCCLS confirmatory Test) are the easiest and cost effective methods for use in clinical laboratories. However none of the detection test are 100% sensitive and specific (30).

The techniques required for the identification of the exact ESBL sub type – DNA Probing – Polymerase chain reaction, RFLP, Isoelectric focusing – are available only at research centers. Perhaps with the advent of gene chip technology in the near future – the sub type identification of ESBL and be made possible in future (32).



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CONcLUSION

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## CONCLUSION

The prevalence of ESBL producing gram negative bacilli in operative wound infection identified in this study was 37.50% which was within the range of 28 to 84% reported in India

ESBL production was found to be coexisted with resistance to several other antibiotics. ESBLs are encoded by plasmids which also carry co-resistant genes for other antibiotics. We found such associated co-resistance with cotrimaxazole, 44.66% gentamicin, 38.73% ciprofloxacin, 41.09% ofloxacin 39.18%. Since co-resistance to non  $\beta$  lactam antibiotics, cotrimaxazole, gentamicin and quinolones was observed, combination of Imipenem+amikacin were found to be alternatives for the treatment of life threatening infections, like septicemia, hospital acquired pneumonia, intravisceral abscess due to faster killing rates of Amikacin. Our study highlights the emergence of ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (48.01%) isolates endowed with extremely wide spectrum of antibiotic resistance including resistance to cotrimaxazole, gentamicin and quinolones suggest that ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates have emerged as one of the major multi-drug resistance organisms. In this study, prevalence of ESBL was found

in 37.5% of the strains isolated from the surgical wounds with a high degree of associated co-resistance to non  $\beta$  lactum antibiotics. Therefore Formulation of an appropriate hospital antibiotic\_policy is necessary to control these infections. Knowing the prevalence of ESBL positive strains in a hospital environment will become necessary to formulate a policy of empirical therapy in high risk units (Ref. 11).

Impact of post discharge surveillance of surgical infections in operative surgery is a very important factor. Surveillance feedback to surgeons is important in reducing Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) post operative infection will be missed unless post discharge surveillance is undertaken. (Ref : Annals of the Royal College Surgeons of England trainees presentation recommended by the college page 214- Department of vascular surgery and microbiology. WORCESTERSHIRE Royal Hospital U.K) which is essential to inform surgeons of their true rate in surgical site infections. To reduce the wound sepsis rate (as post operative wound closure (primary closure) during contaminated operations has been associated with nearly 40% wound sepsis rate based on Knightons wound severity index. (Knighton et al) and post surgical mortality rate, proper deduction and timely reporting of presence of ESBL producing GNB in post operative wounds is very essential. It is suggested that routine diagnosis of ESBL producing strains in post

operative wound infections has to be carried out in order to avoid undesired effects of multi-drug resistant ESBL producing *Klebsiella* by strict control of antibiotic usage. The restricted use of antibiotics will lead to the withdrawal of selective pressure and resistant bacteria will no longer survive in such settings. These findings were the net result of this study. Further studies will be required to substantiate these findings in the field of microbiology.

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## SUMMARY

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## SUMMARY

- The results of this study suggest that the prevalence rate of ESBL producing gram negative bacilli in post operative wound infections was 37.5% which was within the range of 28-84% reported in India.
- The prevalence of ESBL identified in this study was found to co-exist with a high degree of co-resistance to non  $\beta$  lactum antibiotics. Therefore formulation of an appropriate Hospital Antibiotic Policy is necessary to control this infections.
- Over use of  $\beta$  lactams has imposed a selective pressure on pathogens to acquire resistance genes and mutate these confer a border range of activity. The following few points may m\be mentioned for the prevention and control of the spread of ESBLs.
- By having an effective and consistent approach to surveillance, prevention and control of the spread of ESBLs will be made possible.
- Screening of all targeted population at high risk and all high risk unit admissions, implementation of Hand washing programmes and basic cleaning of all surface levels. (Hand touch sites) were all necessary to control the spread.

- Out break activities in the form of patient screening, placing them in contact precautions user barrier precautions are all necessary.
- Our study highlights emergence of ESBL producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* 48.01% isolates as one of the major multi drug resistant organisms.
- A multidisciplinary approach coordinated participation of microbiologists, clinicians, nursing personnel, hospital infection control team is necessary for the management of ESBL producing infections.

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aPPENDIX

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## APPENDIX

### Media Composition

Mueller Hinton Agar : this medium is more commonly used in conjunction with high potency antibiotic risk for the determination of antibiotic sensitivity patterns by the Kirby-Bauer technique :

Beef infusion	-	300 ml
Caesin hydrolysate	-	17.5 g
Starch	-	1.5 g
Agar	-	10 g
Distilled Water	-	1 Ltr.

Emulsify Starch in a small amount of cold water pour into the beef infusion and add the Caesin hydrolysate and the Agar. Make up the volume to 1 liter with distilled water. Dissolve the constituents by heating gently at 100°C with agitation. Filter if necessary. Adjust the pH to 7.4. Dispense screw capped bottle and sterilize by autoclaving at 121°C for 20 minutes.

**MacConkey Agar** : Useful medium for the cultivation of Enterobacteria

Peptone	-	20 g
Sodium taurocholate		
Commercial	-	5 g
Water	-	1 Ltr.
Agar	-	20 gm

Neutral Red Solution - 2% in 50% ethanol = C 3.5 ml = Lactose 10% aqueous solution = 100ml. Dissolve Peptone and taurocholate (Bile salt) in the water by heating. Add the Agar and dissolve it in the steamer or autoclave. Adjust the pH to 7.5. Add the lactose and neutral red and mix. Heat in the autoclave with free steam (100°C) for 1 hour then 115°C for 15 minutes. Pour Plates.

Blood Agar : The BDM is prepared by adding sterile blood to sterile nutrient agar that has been melted and cold to 50°C. 10% is the most usual concentration of blood. Horse blood is the commonest. Double layer blood agar is usually the best. A thin layer of melted nutrient agar about 7 ml for a 9cm petridish is poured and allowed to set. Then a similar thin layer of 10% blood agar is poured on top of the first layer.

Nutrient Agar : Is nutrient brought solidified by the addition of agar.

McFarland Standard : Preparation - McFarland Standard is 0.5 barium sulphate standard. Standard is prepared by adding 0.5ml of (w/v 1.17% BaCl<sub>2</sub> Water) to 99.5 ml of (1% v/v H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>). Aliquots of 4-6 ml of barium sulphate standard are distributed in screw capped bottles. Sealed and can be stored for six months in dark room and room temperature (20-28°C).

Gram Staining : Reagents :

Primary Stain

Crystal Violet	-	10 g
Absolute alcohol	-	100ml
Distilled water	-	1 Ltr.



#### Mordant

Iodine	-	10 g
Potassium Iodide	-	20 g
Distilled water	-	1 Ltr.

#### Decolouriser - Acetone Alcohol Mixture

Acetone	-	50ml
95% Ethanol	-	50 ml

#### Counter stain

Carbol Fuschin Strong	-	100ml
Distilled Water	-	1 Ltr.

Specimen Processing : The specimens were processed as per standard protocol for isolation of bacteria.

#### Smear preparation : Grams Smear –

1. The clinical material was spread thinly and uniformly over a clean glass slide.
2. Smears from culture on solid media were prepared by emulsifying the colonies in a drop of saline placed on the slide and spread over thinly.
3. Smear was allowed to dry in air and then heat fixed by gently passing over a flame once or thrice.

#### Gram Staining

1. The heat fixed smear was flooded with methyl violet kept for 60 seconds.

2. The stain was poured off. Then the smear was washed with sterile distilled water covered with gram iodine for 60 seconds.
3. Again the smear was washed with distilled water and decolourised with acetone alcohol mixture for not more than 10 seconds.
4. The smear was washed with distilled water and counter stained with carbol fuschin for 30 seconds.
5. Then the smear was washed again with distilled water, air-dried and observation was made under oil immersion (100x).